

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 20, 2016**

Opened Meeting: 3:05 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Sue Vachon, Ann Nemrow, Paul Ciesielski, Anne Perry, Wendy Batson, Burr Taylor (left prior to discussion of aquaculture site plan review.)

Approval of the 01/06/16 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Announcements:

HCC Membership:

With the Board of Selectmen's approval of increasing the membership back to seven, the Commission welcomed Wendy Batson as a new associate member.

Mitchell Field:

Jane Covey's presentation has been deferred until the next meeting 02/03/16.

Updates:

Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance:

M. Nahf iterated concerns aired regarding ticks/lyme disease and how to avoid neonicotinoids that are present in so many different pesticides. She also outlined two areas of concern that needs to be addressed before the Planning Board meeting 01/20/16 - Outdoor landscape exceptions and the State's definition for broadcast applications (elaborate on the differing forms of dispersal.)

Discussion pertaining to these concerns centered around the revised draft of 12/18/16.

Outdoor Landscape Exceptions: In relationship to the entire ordinance.

- Commercial agriculture
- Nurseries
- Golf courses
- Pet supplies
- Insect and animal repellants
- Aerosol cans
- Baiting and rodent control

The list comprises abstractions from Ogunquit's list that are deemed relevant to Harpswell.

Consensus was reached regarding the above exceptions.

Prohibition of the use of insect growth regulators and neonicotinoids (despite professional concerns expressed.)

Voted unanimously to ban them.

Additional Points for Discussion:

- Despite complications it was agreed to continue working on the ordinance, given the momentum and recent articles that have aroused Town interest.
- Note the comments stated at the Planning Board hearing for future review.
- Discuss the issue of overrides (emergency waivers.)

- Resolve the issue of eradicating invasive species.
- Define when, how and in what instances a certified pesticide applicator can disperse banned substances.
- Plan an additional meeting to resolve the above.

Subjects Tabled for the Next Meeting:

- Sea Level Resiliency Report (W. Batson, D. Strachan, P. Ciesielski)
- Draft letter to lawncare professionals.
- List of safe alternatives to pesticides in the forms of flyer/ handout /webpage.
- Q & A's - S. Vachon
- Update webpage to reflect controls of brown tail and winter moths, and woolly adelgid. M. Nahf.
- Follow up with Skillins Nursery. M. Nahf.
- Research steps to become a certified pesticide applicator M. Nahf to confer with G. Fish.
- Mitchell Field pier and boat launch proposal. Jane Covey presentation.

New Business:

Proposed Aquaculture Facility Site Plan Review:

M. Nahf sent copies of the following background information for discussion prior to the Planning Board meeting. They comprise: Plan proposal with M. Eyerman's comments; shoreline setback with reduced footage proposal; an opinion regarding compliance of the aquaculture facility with the definition of a water dependent industry (notated) and a picture of the site. A cover letter by M. Nahf was included outlining HCC's areas of concern.

Discussion included the following:

- The proposed facility is 30' X 50" in size. It comprises 3 large tanks of seawater-juvenile shellfish (oysters and spat clams) rearing, cleansing, and UV tank to remove bacteria from the oysters prior to marketing.
- Clarification on the status of being a water related business.
- Due to proximity of a wetland, the required setback of 75' is not possible. The owner, Walter Moody, is asking for a reduction to 25' setback.
- Since the tank water comes from and is dispersed back into the New Meadows River, what chemicals or other effluents have the potential to harm water quality of the wetland and New Meadows River?
- What hydrological changes might occur?
- What impact will the building and clearing of vegetation for construction have on adjacent wetlands?
- Traffic, parking and pedestrian impacts (3 employees.)

Concerns regarding the plan proposal:

- No delineation of the wetland.
- Plan is rudimentary.
- No formal survey.
- No landscape buffers.
- Visual impact on immediate community.
- Location of septic system.
- Impact of the process itself - noise, lights.
- No erosion control plan during and after construction.
- No planting plan.

Motion taken:

To support the aquaculture industry in principal, but want to be sure that no detrimental impact will occur to either the wetland or the River. Before a decision is reached by the Board, we are asking that more detailed plans are submitted for review.

Voted:

To accept the motion. Six for, 0 against, W. Batson, neighbor, recused herself from voting,

Adjourned: 4:55 PM.

Meetings: February 3, 17, March 2 at 3:00 PM.

Note: Annual Town Meeting March 12 at 10 PM.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow